

From:

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Regarding:

Support for Substitute SB 422, An Act Concerning Residential Water Rates, Public Drinking Water Supply Emergencies and the Sellers of Bottled Water

Date of Hearing:

March 11, 2016

To:

Members of the Planning and Development Committee

I am writing to support the changes in wording to the above referenced bill as suggested by Bloomfield Citizens. The rationale behind the request for legislative protection for the citizens of Bloomfield and for the member towns of the Metropolitan District Commission (MDC) is transparently logical. Listed below are the changes to consider:

- **Protect residents, not water bottlers during a drought.** If the DPH declares a Drought Advisory, the production of bottled water in CT needs to stop.
- **Rescind water rate discounts for water bottlers.** They extract large amounts of our municipal water and spring water, fill the environment with plastic pollution, and profit while citizens are conserving and paying more.
- **Rescind the *Special Sewer Service Charge* discount for water bottlers (now known as the *Clean Water Project Charge*).** CT

ratepayers have paid for years to build infrastructure for clean water; no discounts for corporations.

- **Re-establish a citizen MDC (Metropolitan District Commission) watch dog committee.**
- **Impose a moratorium on any new large capacity agreements** until the State Water Plan is completed and addresses the issue of water bottling companies diverting water out of watersheds.
- **Please note:**
- Beyond the concerns stated above, it is my fervent hope that the MDC be required to monitor the levels of chlorine and other potential pathogens in its water on a daily basis.
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- Moreover, if Niagra is to sell this water, both The Niagra Bottling plant and The MDC should share the cost of frequent checks for the following contaminants listed on the Healthy drinking water website:
- <http://www.cdc.gov/healthywater/drinking/public/faq.html>

There can be many sources of contamination of our water systems. Here is a list of the most common sources of contaminants:

- Naturally occurring chemicals and minerals (for example, arsenic, radon, uranium)
- Local land use practices (fertilizers, pesticides, livestock, concentrated animal feeding operations)
- Manufacturing processes
- Sewer overflows
- Malfunctioning wastewater treatment systems (for example, nearby septic systems)

Aside from protecting our citizens, we owe it to unsuspecting buyers to assure the purity and safety of this water.

I submit these thoughts in the sincere hope that our legislators, whose purpose is to represent and protect its voter constituency, will make the courageous choice to serve the best interest of Connecticut's citizens.

Ruthanne S. Marchetti